

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8514

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1899

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PINT SF PDEV WA RH

SUBJ: SOUTH AFRICAN JOURNALIST DISCUSSES SITUATION IN SOUTHERN
AFRICA WITH AMBASSADOR MCHENRY

1. AMBASSADOR MCHENRY MET INFORMALLY MAY 27 AT HOME OF PRETORIA
DATT COL. CREWS WITH ALLISTAIR SPARKS, EDITOR OF THE RAND DAILY
MAIL. SPARKS WAS IN A DESPONDENT MOOD. HE THOUGHT THAT ANY
POSITIVE MOVEMENT, WHICH HE HAD SEEN 15 MONTHS AGO, HAD CEASED.
HE DESCRIBED AS CYNICAL THE HIGHLY TOUTED 99-YEAR LEASES FOR
AFRICANS IN "WHITE" SOUTH AFRICA. EVERYONE KNEW THAT SEPARATE
DEVELOPMENT, AS IMPLEMENTED, WOULD RESULT IN NO BLACKS.

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2. SPARKS SAID THAT THE BLACK REACTION HAD BEEN DRIVEN UNDER-
GROUND AND WAS SURE TO EMERGE IN A DISASTROUS WAY. THE RAND
DAILY MAIL HAD TRIED CALMLY TO POINT OUT THE FUTURE CONSEQU-
ENCES, BUT ALL NEWSPAPERS, INCLUDING THE MAIL, HAD BEEN
EFFECTIVELY COWED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

3. IN RHODESIA, SPARKS SAW LITTLE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WOULD SUCCEED. HE HAD WRITTEN AS MUCH AFTER A WEEK-LONG VISIT TO RHODESIA AND, AS A RESULT, HAD TAKEN EXTENSIVE ABUSE FROM SOUTH AFRICANS PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY, GOVERNMENT AND NONGOVERNMENT SOURCES. IN HIS VIEW, HIS INITIAL OBSERVATION ON THE UNWORKABILITY OF THE INTERNAL AGREEMENT HAD BEEN PROVEN CORRECT. HE NOW WAS BEGINNING TO RECEIVE INFORMATION ON RE-ALIGNMENT AMONG RHODESIAN GROUPS. THE MOST INTRIGUING WHISPERS CONCERNED A MUZOREWA-MUGABE ALIGNMENT.

4. ON NAMIBIA, SPARKS HAD BEEN DELIGHTED WITH SOUTH AFRICA'S ACCEPTANCE, BUT IN LIGHT OF THE CASSINGA RAID THE ACCEPTANCE APPEARED A CYNICAL MOVE. HE WAS NOT CONVINCED THAT SOUTH AFRICA WANTED A SETTLEMENT ON AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE BASIS. YET HE BELIEVED THAT SOUTH AFRICA'S OWN INTEREST WOULD BE BEST SERVED IF THE SAG POSITIVELY ASSISTED IN SETTLING BOTH NAMIBIA AND RHODESIA.

5. SPARKS HAD HIS OWN SUGGESTIONS FOR DEALING WITH THE SITUATION IN SOUTH AFRICA. AMERICAN PRESSURE HAD BEEN TOO GENERALIZED AND THE TARGET TOO LARGE. HE URGED CONCENTRATION ON A SPECIFIC PRACTICE AND THE WARNING TO SOUTH AFRICA THAT A SPECIFIC CONSEQUENCE WOULD BE FOLLOWED IF THE PRACTICE WAS NOT ENDED OR SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS MADE WITHIN A GIVEN TIME.

6. WITH REGARD TO FUTURE SOUTH AFRICAN LEADERSHIP, SPARKS WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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PESSIMISTIC. DEFENSE MINISTER P. W. BOTHA WAS OLDER THAN VORSTER AND A HOPELESS HAWK. CONNIE MULDER WAS A CROOK WHO, THOUGH HE WOULD SURVIVE THE INFORMATION SCANDAL, WOULD BE CRIPPLED IN HIS EFFORT TO BE PRIME MINISTER. PIK BOTHA, ONCE THOUGHT OF AS THE HOPE OF THE FUTURE, HAD SHOWN HIMSELF A DEMAGOGUE AND TWO-BIT ACTOR. SPARKS SAID THAT BOTHA'S ATTEMPT TO USE THE PRESS TO ATTACK AMBASSADOR MCHENRY WAS PARTICULARLY SHAMEFUL. HE SAID BOTHA HAD PUT OUT A "PILE OF TRASH" ON MCHENRY BEFORE AND AFTER HIS ARRIVAL ON THE CURRENT TRIP. THE RAND DAILY MAIL REFUSED TO USE MOST OF THE MATERIAL BUT SUCH IS THE GOVERNMENT'S INTIMIDATION THEY HAD TO CARRY SOME OF BOTHA'S OFFERINGS.
LOW

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